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DEC 12 2007

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
E. Neil Lewis, et al.	:	
Application No. 10/776,029	:	DECISION ON PETITIONS
Filed: February 10, 2004	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
Attorney Docket No. S0001-002004	:	AND UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6), filed July 12, 2007, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional and provisional applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is **DISMISSED**

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000 and after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) and 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(i) and 1.78(a)(5)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition does not comply with item (1).

In reviewing the chain of applications to which applicant is seeking a claim for priority, it is noted that this application improperly directly claims benefit of priority to provisional

Application Nos. 60/120,859 and 60/143,801, since these provisional applications were filed more than twelve months from the filing date of the present application. Petitioner is advised that every intermediate application must properly make a reference to the first (earliest) application and every application after the first application and before such intermediate application. See Sampson v. Ampex Corp., 463 F.2d 1042, 1044-45, 174 USPQ 417, 418-19 (2d Cir. 1972); Sticker Indus. Supply Corp. v. Blaw-Knox Co., 405 F.2d 90, 93, 160 USPQ 177, 179 (7th Cir. 1968); Hovlid v. Asari, 305 F.2d 747, 751, 134 USPQ 162, 165 (9th Cir. 1962). See also MPEP § 201.11. The following is a suggested format for claiming benefit of priority to the prior applications:

This application is a continuation of Application No. 09/507,293, filed February 18, 2000, now Patent No. 6,690,464, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional Application Nos. 60/120,859, filed February 19, 1999 and 60/143,801, filed July 14, 1999, which are all herein incorporated by reference.

Before the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) can be granted, a renewed petition and either an Application Data Sheet or a substitute amendment (complying with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121 or 37 CFR 1.76(b)(5)) to correct the above matter is required.

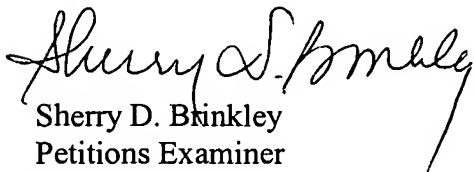
Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

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Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3204.


Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
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